



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2574-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Itsuko SAKAI et al.)

Application No.: 09/877,145)

Filed: June 11, 2001)

For: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD)

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Timothy H. Meeks

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated February 26, 2003, with a period for response extending through March 26, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

Group I - Claims 1-17, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a method involving plasma monitoring, and

Group II - Claims 18-31, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a method involving thickness monitoring.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the group characterized by the Examiner as Group I, claims 1-17.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 26, 2003

By: *Richard V. Burgujian*
for Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744